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SECTION ONE OF TWO  
CITE TDCS-314/02654-68 (ADVANCED) 2A  
REPORT CLASS  
COUNTRY: SOUTH VIETNAM  
SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT IN I CORPS  
AS OF 0900 HOURS ON 13 FEBRUARY

ACQ: (11-13 FEBRUARY 1968)  
SOURCE:

SUMMARY: CONDITIONS WERE QUIET WITH A CONTINUING NORMAL TREND IN I CORPS. ONLY SMALL-SCALE ENEMY ACTION WAS REPORTED. MORALE HAS DECLINED IN QUANG TRI CITY AS A RESULT OF RUMORS THAT THERE ARE VC INSIDE THE CITY AND THAT NVA UNITS ARE MOVING TOWARD THE CITY, MOSTLY UNTRUE. OTHER FACTORS WERE THE 11 FEBRUARY ROCKET ATTACK ON THE CITY, WHICH COST NO LIVES BUT PROVED THE ENEMY CAN STILL ATTACK, AND THE DEPARTURE OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS EMPLOYED BY THE AMERICANS. IN DANANG RESIDENTS HAVE FORTIFIED THEIR HOUSES IN MANY INSTANCES, EVEN THOUGH THE PRESSURE IS AT LEAST TEMPORARILY OFF. SOME ARE CONCERNED THAT BUDDHIST UNREST WILL FOLLOW THE LIFTING OF THE CURFEW, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE BUDDHISTS ARE PLANNING ANY ACTION. LEAFLETS RECOVERED IN QUANG TIN ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF THE ALLIANCE FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY AND APPEAL FOR NEGOTIATION WITH THE NLF SV TO RESTORE PEACE. AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM QUANG TIN ALLEGES THAT A VC CADRE SAID THAT THE SECOND AND THIRD PHASES OF VC ATTACKS WILL BE FROM 20 FEBRUARY TO MARCH AND FROM MARCH TO MAY, RESPECTIVELY. END SUMMARY.

1. ON 12 FEBRUARY FREE WORLD AND ALLIED FORCES MADE A SWEEP OF THE RD AREA IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE, RESULTING IN 12 ENEMY KIA, ONE A/RANKING OFFICER OF THE 808TH VC MAIN FORCE BATTALION, ATTACHED TO THE 5TH NVA REGIMENT; BEFORE DAWN A FORCE OF UNKNOWN SIZE WAS BEING ENGAGED WEST OF AI TU WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS. THE ENEMY IS STILL EXERTING PRESSURE ON LINES OF COMMUNICATION, MOSTLY BY INDIRECT FIRE ATTACKS. HAI LANG DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS RECEIVED A FEW MORTAR ROUNDS

2. BY 11 FEBRUARY THE MORALE OF THE PEOPLE IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE HAD BEGUN TO DETERIORATE WITH RUMORS OF VC INSIDE THE CITY, A ROCKET ATTACK ON THE CITY, ALLEGED MOVEMENT OF NVA TROOPS TOWARD THE CITY, THE DEPARTURE OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS (FILIPINOS) WHO WORK FOR THE AMERICANS, AND CONTINUED VC CONTROL OF PARTS OF HUE CITY. ON 11 FEBRUARY THE PROVINCE CHIEF ORDERED A DAILY 1400 TO 0900 HOURS CURFEW IN QUANG TRI CITY "TO CONTROL THE POPULATION." THE PROVINCE CHIEF AND MOST ARVN AND GVN OFFICIALS HAVE A PASSIVE ATTITUDE, AND IN THE FACE OF REPORTS THAT TRIEU PHONG DISTRICT WAS TO BE ATTACKED, THE VIETNAMESE LITERALLY JUST FILLED MORE SANDBAGS, GIVING IN TO THE INEVITABLE.

3. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS HAVE INDICATED THAT THE VC WERE GOING TO DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS REFUGEES, ARVN SOLDIERS, AND SO FORTH TO INFILTRATE THE CITY. THERE IS HOWEVER, NO EVIDENCE THAT MANY HAVE SUCCEEDED, AND REGULAR POLICE CHECKS OF POPULATION MOVEMENTS HAVE TURNED UP RELATIVELY FEW SUSPECTS. ENEMY ROCKETS WERE THROWN INTO THE CITY ABOUT 0130 ON 11 FEBRUARY, RESULTING IN NO INJURIES, BUT THE DAMAGE TO THE MOVIE THEATRE WAS DRAMATIC PROOF THAT THE CITY WAS STILL NOT SAFE. THERE WERE RUMORS THAT THE 95TH NVA REGIMENT WAS MOVING FROM WEST OF AI TU AIRSTRIP TOWARD QUANG TRI CITY. THE 95TH WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ONE OF THE UNITS (MISSING PORTION) ON TWO OCCASIONS RUMORS OF NVA UNITS IN OTHER AREAS WERE SPIKED WHEN IT WAS LEARNED THAT U.S. TROOPS HAD BEEN OPERATING FOR TWO DAYS IN EACH OF THE AREAS WITHOUT CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY.

4. IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE HOI AN AND DANANG CITIES HAD QUIET NIGHTS, WITH BOTH CONTINUING TO RETURN TO NORMAL. IN DANANG, ALTHOUGH THE PRESSURE IS TEMPORARILY OFF, LOCAL CITIZENS HAVE BEEN SANDBAGGING THEIR HOMES AND TAKING PRE-CAUTIONS IN THE EVENT OF ANOTHER ENEMY ATTACK. A RESIDENT OF A VILLAGE AT THE NORTHWEST EDGE OF DANANG SAID THAT THE PEOPLE ANTICIPATE BUDDHIST UNREST AFTER THE CURFEW IS LIFTED. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS THAT THE BUDDHISTS ARE PLANNING SUCH MOVES, CONCERN PROBABLY IS TO BE EXPECTED AFTER THE DISRUPTION OF THE 1966 BUDDHIST STRUGGLE. A VNQDD MEMBER HAS STATED THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO JUDGE THE ATTITUDES OF THE PEOPLE. THEY ARE NOT TALKING VERY MUCH AND EVIDENTLY ARE KEEPING THEIR OPINIONS TO THEMSELVES. BEGINNING ON 13 FEBRUARY THE CURFEW IN DANANG IS RELAXED FROM 0300 TO 1200 HOURS, GIVING THE PEOPLE FOUR HOURS FOR BUSINESS AND SHOPPING.

5. IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE THE VC MORTARED 6TH ARVN REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS THE NIGHT OF 12/13 FEBRUARY. THE OLD USAID COMPOUND IN TAM KY CITY RECEIVED TWO B-40 ROCKET ROUNDS AND ONE MORTAR ROUND OF UNKNOWN CALIBER. THERE WAS SOME PROPERTY DAMAGE BUT NO PERSONAL INJURIES. CONDITIONS IN TAM KY AND QUANG NGAI CITY REFLECTED A CONTINUING NORMAL TREND.

6. VC LEAFLETS RECOVERED IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE AFTER THE ATTACK OF 31 JANUARY CALL UPON THE PEOPLE TO STRIVE FOR PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND HAPPINESS. A NUMBER OF VC SAFE-CONDUCT PASSES WERE FOUND AROUND THE CITY. A LEAFLET DATED 31 JANUARY 1968 IS SIGNED BY THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES. ANOTHER, UNSIGNED, STATES THAT INFORMATION FROM SAIGON TELLS OF THE FORMATION OF THE ALLIANCE FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY (LIEN MINH CAC LU LUONG DAN TOC VA HOA BINH).

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FINAL SECTION OF TWO

CITE TDGS-314/02654-68 (ADVANCE)  
SEVERAL BUSINESSMEN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL PARTIES  
AND RELIGIONS SUPPORT THE APPEAL OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR  
THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS AND NEGOTIATION WITH THE NLF SV  
TO RESTORE PEACE. THE LEAFLET SAYS THAT A DECLARATION HAD  
BEEN RELEASED IN HUE CALLING UPON ALL PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THE  
ORGANIZATION, WHICH WAS READ BY LE VAN HAO.

7. (COMMENT: THE CONSULATE IN DANANG  
REPORTED ON THE BROADCAST ANNOUNCING THE  
FORMATION OF THE ALLIANCE. REGIONAL POLICE IN DANANG  
HAVE STATED THAT LE VAN HAO, PROFESSOR AT HUE UNIVERSITY,  
AND HOANG PHU NGOC TUONG, A 1966 STRUGGLE MOVEMENT LEADER  
WHO FLED TO A VC ZONE AFTER THE MOVEMENT WAS CRUSHED,  
HEAD THE ALLIANCE. TUONG AND HIS BROTHER HOANG PHU NGOC PHAN,  
WERE MILITANT LEADERS IN THE 1966 BUDDHIST STRUGGLE MOVEMENT  
AND CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE COMMUNIST. THEY ADVOCATED A  
PEACEFUL, NEUTRALIST SOLUTION TO THE WAR. IN  
EARLY 1967, THEY WERE INVOLVED IN AN EFFORT TO RENEW  
THE STRUGGLE.)  
REPORTED THAT HAO OBTAINED A MASTERS DEGREE IN LETTERS IN  
FRANCE, WAS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE BUDDHIST STRUGGLE,  
AND WAS BEING SOUGHT BY POLICE IN NOVEMBER 1966 TO CLARIFY  
HIS ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRUGGLE.)

8. A POLICE INFORMANT WHO LIVES IN KY NGHIA VILLAGE,  
IN A VC-CONTROLLED AREA OF TAM KY DISTRICT, QUANG TIN PROVINCE,  
REPORTED THAT ON 6 FEBRUARY A VC PROVINCIAL PUBLIC SECURITY  
CADRE SAID THAT THERE WERE TO BE THREE LARGE ATTACKS BY THE  
VC. THE FIRST WAS CARRIED OUT DURING THE TET FESTIVAL, THE  
SECOND WILL BE CARRIED OUT BETWEEN 20 FEBRUARY AND MARCH,  
AND THE THIRD WILL OCCUR BETWEEN MARCH AND MAY.  
THE VC PLAN IS TO ISOLATE U.S. TROOPS IN ORDER TO LAUNCH  
SUCCESSFUL ATTACKS ON GVN FORCES.

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